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# RESPONSIBLE FISHERIES

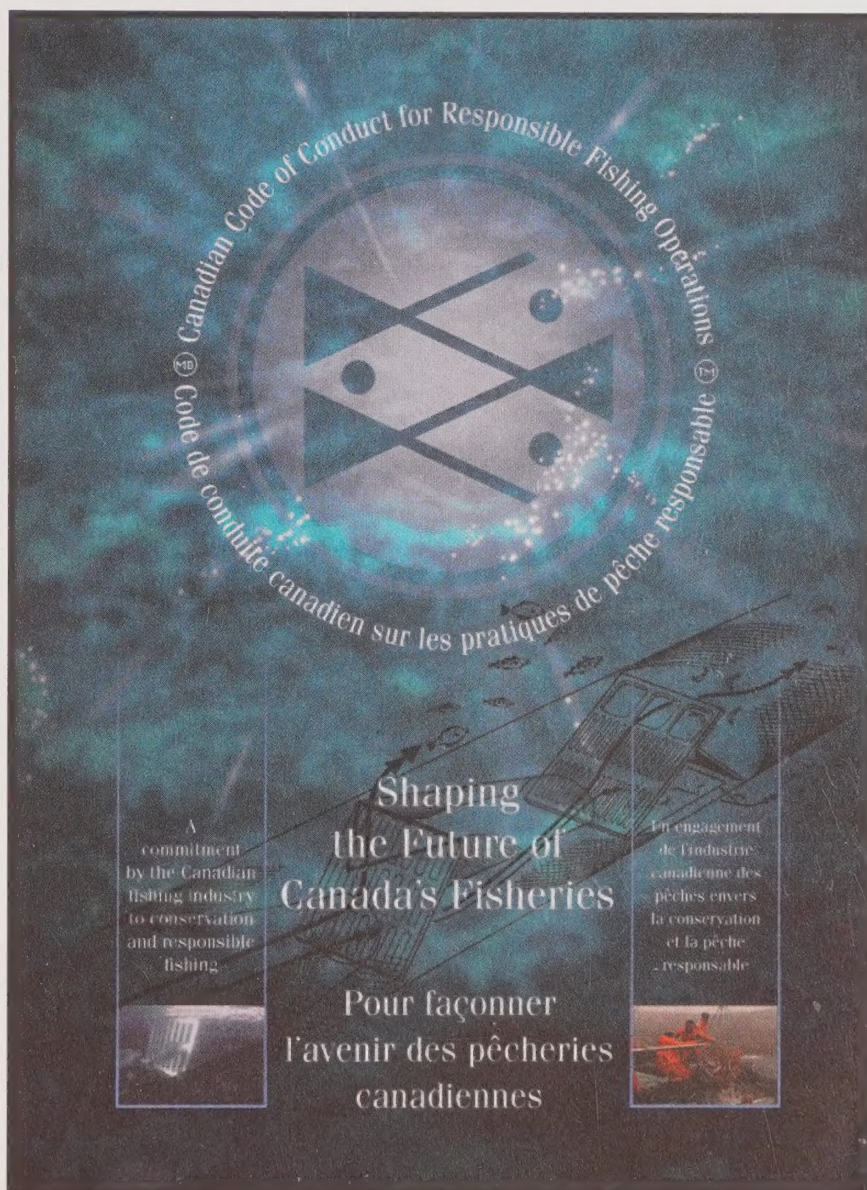
## SUMMARY



Code of Conduct for Responsible  
Fishing Operations - A Review  
(1998-2001)  
JANUARY 2002

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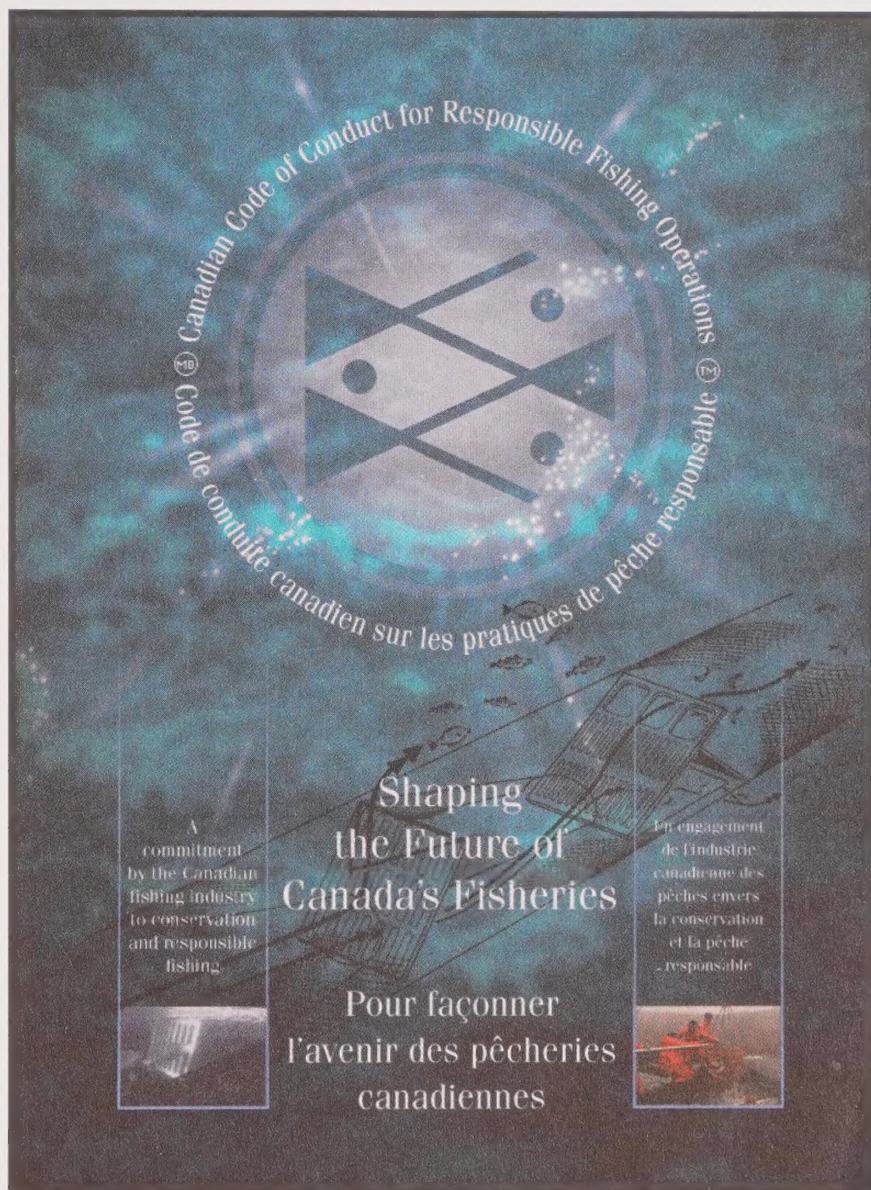


Code of Conduct for Responsible  
Fishing Operations - A Review  
(1998-2001)

S U M M A R Y

JANUARY 2002

*The endorsement of the Canadian Code of Conduct for Responsible Fishing Operations Consensus Code by industry participants attending the January 1998 National Fishing Industry Workshop ushered in a new era in the annals of Canadian fisheries. The Canadian Responsible Fisheries Board has actively promoted ratification of the Code with the result that more than 70 fisheries organizations representing all fleet sectors and regions have ratified the Canadian Code of Conduct and are applying it in their day-to-day activities.*



Fisheries and Oceans  
Canada

Pêches et Océans  
Canada

Canada



## INTRODUCTION

The need for a Canadian Code of Conduct for Responsible Fishing Operations was first recognized in 1995 following the collapse of many of Canada's traditional fisheries. Responding to the need for conservation, a number of fisher's organizations from across Canada initiated the development of the Canadian Code of Conduct for Responsible Fishing Operations as a means of achieving sustainable, conservation-based, and economically viable commercial fisheries.

An Industry Steering Group was formed to oversee Code development and a Secretariat established in DFO to provide support. Code development involved extensive consultations with grassroots fishers from all sectors and regions of Canada, culminating with the National Fishing Industry Workshop in Toronto (1998). Undertaken for fishers by fishers, Code development signalled the commitment of Canadian fishers to sustainable use of fisheries resources.

The Canadian Code of Conduct for Responsible Fishing Operations outlines general principles and guidelines for all commercial fishing operations taking place in Canadian waters. The primary objective to be achieved through Code

development and implementation is:

*"The achievement of sustainability in marine and freshwater fisheries by directly contributing to the conservation of stocks and by protecting the aquatic environment for present and future generations of Canadians."*

In the Plan for Governance and Ratification of the Canadian Code of Conduct for Responsible Fishing Operations, an Annex to the Code, it was proposed that the Code Steering Committee, which had been instrumental in the Code development process, be replaced "by a newly created industry Board reflecting the character and nature of Canada's fishing industry."

The Canadian Responsible Fisheries Board which was established as a thirteen-member board comprised of fishing industry representatives from the Atlantic, Pacific, and Arctic coasts, and the freshwater and Aboriginal commercial fisheries completed its three-year mandate during 2001. The Primary focus of the Board's work had been to oversee ratification of the Code.

This summary provides an overview of the Board's activities over the past three years with respect to ratification and identifies future work needed to ensure that the Code is implemented.



Structure of Canadian Responsible Fisheries Board

	Inshore-Midshore	Offshore (>100')	Global	Total	Umbrella Group
Arctic			1	1	
Freshwater			2	2	
Aboriginal Commercial Fish Harvesters			1	1	
Pacific Coast			3	3	CFIC
Atlantic Coast	4	1	1	6	CFPH/FCC Midshore Fleets
Total	4	1	8	13	



**Canadian Responsible Fisheries Board****Chair****Rick Misner**Ontario Commercial Fisheries Association  
Port Dover, Ontario**Members****Mark Allard**Seaku Fisheries/Northern Fisheries  
Coalition  
Kuujuaq/Montreal, Quebec**Bill Broderick**Fish, Food & Allied Workers Union  
St. John's, Newfoundland**Jeff Brownstein**Maritime Fishermen's Union  
Baddeck, Nova Scotia**Ron Fowler**Pacific Trollers Association  
Vancouver, British Columbia**Brian Giroux**Scotia-Fundy Mobile Gear Association  
Yarmouth, Nova Scotia**Christine Hunt**Native Brotherhood of BC  
Victoria, British Columbia**Robert T. Krisjanson**Lake Winnipeg, Whitefish Fleet  
Gimli, Manitoba**Gabrielle Landry**Fédération des Pêcheurs Semi-Hauturier  
Cap-aux-Meules, Quebec**Rory McLellan**PEI Fishermen's Association  
Charlottetown, Prince Edward Island**Patrick McGuinness**Fisheries Council of Canada  
Nepean, Ontario**Bob Rezanoff**Fishing Vessel Owner's Association of BC  
Vancouver, British Columbia**John Sutcliffe**United Fishermen & Allied Workers  
Union of BC  
Vancouver, British Columbia*The Canadian Responsible Fisheries Board (1998)***YEAR ONE IN REVIEW  
(JUNE 1998-1999)**

**T**he first meeting of the Board was convened on June 22, 1998 in Dartmouth, Nova Scotia.

**Highlights of Boards Inaugural Meeting**

Board members:

- reviewed terms of reference and agreed that their primary function was to promote and oversee ratification of the Code of Conduct;
- elected Rick Misner from Port Dover, Ontario as Board Chairman;
- established a communications committee comprised of Gabrielle Landry, Brian Giroux, Patrick McGuinness and Chair, Rick Misner; and

- distributed an official copy of the Code and other relevant material to all fisheries organizations with an invitation to ratify the Code at their annual meetings.

**Communications Committee  
Gears up to Promote Code**

In September 1998, the Communications Sub-committee met in Ottawa to review its strategy for promoting the Code. A decision was made to develop several communication components, namely:

- a web site ([www.responsiblefisheries.com/](http://www.responsiblefisheries.com/));
- a portable exhibition displaying elements of the Code;



- establishment of a national awards program to recognize the contribution of fishers to responsible fisheries; and
- translation of the Code into Inuktituk.

### Communications Goals

*To assist the ratification and implementation process of the Canadian Code of Conduct for Responsible Fishing Operations, promote the purpose of the Code, and increase awareness of the benefits of the Code.*

### Board Actively Pursues Ratification

In support of organizations presenting the Code to its membership for ratification, the communications committee began a rigorous campaign to promote awareness and understanding of the Code.

### Board Presentations

#### Council of First Ministers

In September 1998, Board Chair, Rick Misner, and members Bob Rezansoff and John Sutcliffe provided the Conference of the Council of First Ministers with a presentation that highlighted the purpose of the Code and outlined Code Principles and Guidelines.

### Fisheries Council of Canada

In October 1998, Board members participated in the Fisheries Council of Canada's Annual Convention. It was an ideal opportunity to exhibit the responsible fishing display, making the Code highly visible to a host of practising fishers and executives of fisheries organizations.

### Canadian Council of Professional Fish Harvesters

Parliament Hill was the site of a meeting of the Canadian Council of Professional Fish Harvesters celebrating World Fisheries Day. The Board was invited to display information about the Code to the fishing community as well as the general public at this unique event.

### BC Fisheries Associations

Board members made several pre-

sentations at various annual general meetings of British Columbia organizations considering ratification, including:

- Fishing Vessel Owners Association;
- Area G Gill-netters Association; and
- Beam Trawlers Association.

A press release distributed to all major daily newspapers, (French and English) and an article featured in Fishing News International detailed the work of Canadian fishers in establishing a Code of Conduct for Responsible Fishing Operations.





## RATIFICATION DRIVES BOARD INITIATIVES- YEAR II (1999-2000)

In February 1999, the Board met in Vancouver, British Columbia to review the ratification process and to set the agenda for the year. Their new goals were:

- to step-up a schedule of presentations to be made to fisheries organizations;
- to urge ministers responsible for fisheries to publicly recognize industry's commitment to the Code;
- to finalize plans for the National Awards Program and request that Governor General, Romeo LeBlanc, lend his name to the awards;
- to address concerns of organizations who had not yet ratified; and
- to make strong representation to fisheries schools to have their curriculum include the use of the Code in fishing operations.

### Board Steps Up Activities to Promote the Code and Ratification

A busy schedule was maintained by many individual board members who toured the country speaking to the membership of various organizations about ratification and providing information on the Code.

The Code was also placed on permanent display at the Steveson Fisheries Museum in British Columbia.

The schedule shown here attests to the dedication of Board members in get-

ting the "word out" about the Code to all fishers and their organizations.

### Board Promotes Responsible Fishing Training at All Levels

#### Board Presentations

##### *September*

**Canadian Council of Fisheries Ministers, Quebec City**

Gabrielle Landry

**Prince Edward Island Professionalization Conference**

Rick Misner

##### *October*

**Scotia Fundy Mobile Gear Operators Association**

Brian Giroux

**Nova Scotia Mobile Gear Fleet**

Brian Giroux

**Petty Harbour Fishermen's Co-Op**

Rick Misner

**Quebec Fishing Industry and Aquaculture Conference, Rimouski**

M. Allard, G. Landry, & R. Misner

##### *November*

**Freshwater Fish Marketing Corporation Board of Directors**

Rick Misner

**Deep Sea Trawlers Association & Selective Salmon Harvesters Association**

Bob Rezanoff

**Maritime Fishermen's Union**

Jeff Brownstein

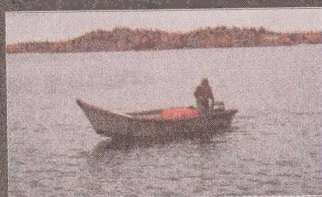
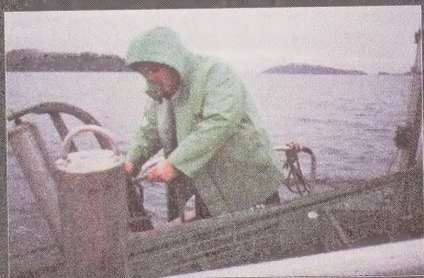
Due to the Board's efforts, the concept of responsible fishing is now an integral part of the curriculum of fisheries colleges across Canada. Through these courses, new entrants to the industry, practising harvesters upgrading their skills, and fishery officers are exposed to the issues and practises of responsible fishing. The Board has also promoted the teaching of responsible fishing in high school programs, making young Canadians aware of the value of the resource and how fishers are working to protect one of Canada's most valued natural resources.

### Plans for National Awards and Roméo LeBlanc Medal Finalized

Charged with promoting the public image of commercial fishing in Canada, the Canadian Responsible Fisheries Board created the National Awards Program for Responsible Fishing and the Roméo LeBlanc Medal.

The national awards program publicly recognizes Canadian fishers who have made an outstanding contribution to the practice of responsible fishing principles expressed in the Canadian Code of Conduct for Responsible Fishing Operations. The Right Honourable Roméo LeBlanc, former Governor General of Canada and a former Minister of Fisheries and Oceans Canada, has lent his name and patronage to the awards.





Canadian Code of Conduct for  
 the Fishing Industry  
 © 1994  
 Code de conduite canadien sur le  
 poisson

A  
 commitment  
 by the Canadian  
 fishing industry  
 to conservation  
 and responsible  
 fishing



Share  
 the Future  
 of Canada's  
 Fishing Industry

Pour  
 l'avenir de  
 l'industrie  
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 de la pêche



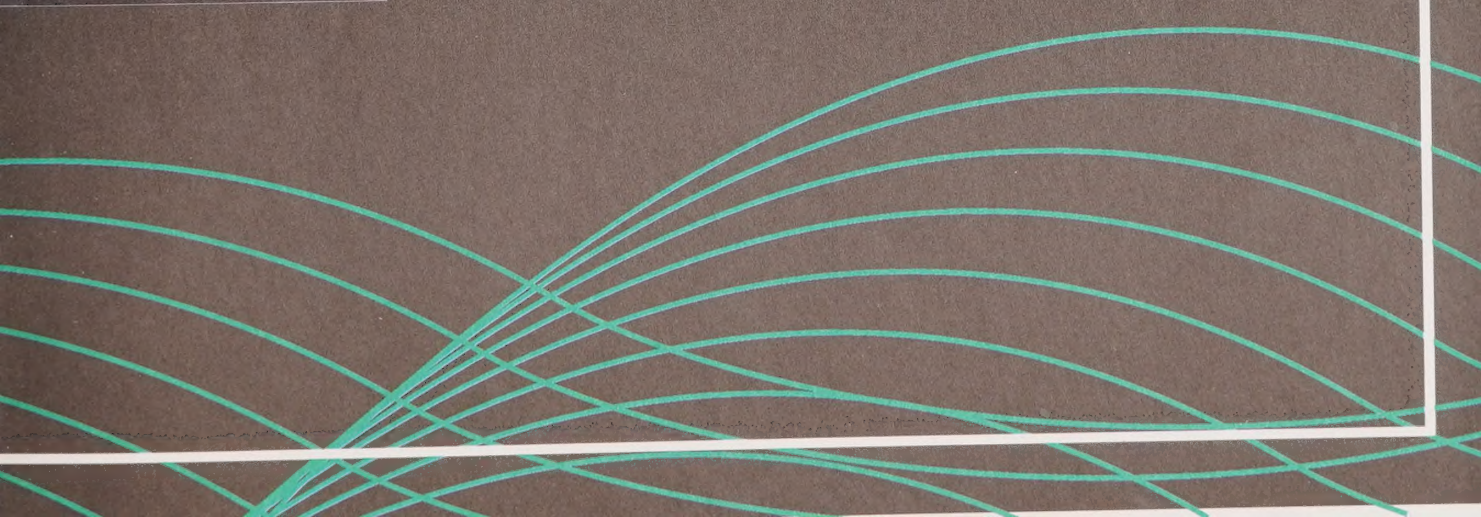
Responsible Fishing Operations

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The Awards Program calls for a practising commercial fisher from each of the Atlantic, Pacific, Arctic, and Freshwater fisheries to be selected each year to receive the national award and from these, a finalist is chosen to receive the Roméo LeBlanc Medal.

In April 2000, the first National Awards ceremony was held in Ottawa in Rideau Hall. Laureates were: Les Rombough, Pacific; Davidee Evic, Arctic; Robert T. Krisjansen, freshwater; and George Feltham, Atlantic. Mr. George Feltham of Newfoundland was the winner of the Roméo LeBlanc Medal. Finalists for the year 2001 were: George Purvis, freshwater; Stevie Audlakiak, Arctic; Stan Logan, Pacific; and Pierrot Haché, Atlantic. The Roméo LeBlanc medal was awarded to Pierrot Haché.

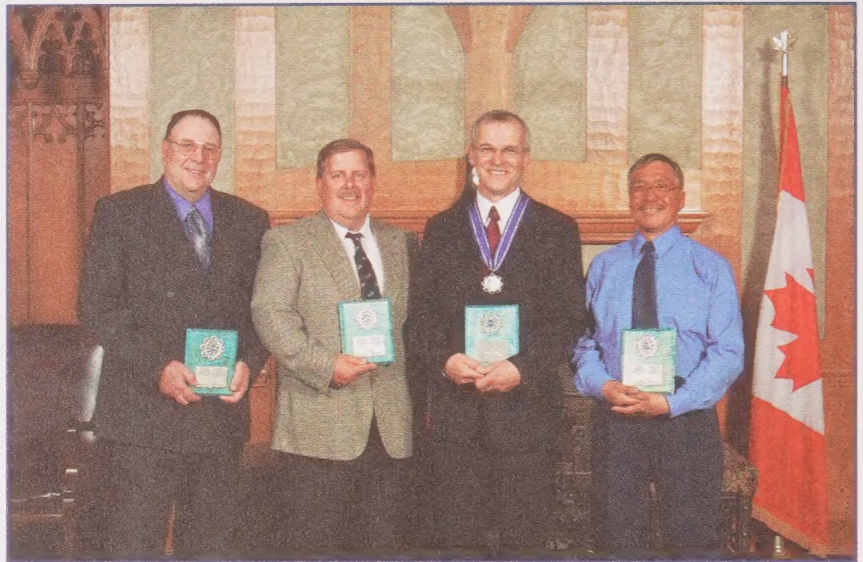


The Honourable Herb Dhaliwal, Minister of Fisheries and Oceans, in his address at the 2001 awards ceremony,

stated that the true spirit of the awards had been expressed by Roméo LeBlanc:

*"You have given your efforts not for your own benefit, but for other Canadians and the resource itself. You did it on your own time and your own initiative, without a thought of reward so you have given us not only a richer resource, but a model of public spirit."*

Roméo LeBlanc



Award winners for 2001 were (left to right) George Purvis, freshwater; Stan Logan, Pacific; Pierrot Haché, Atlantic; Stevie Audlakiak, Arctic.

### Canada Recognized Internationally for Responsible Fishing Achievements

The International Margarita Lizarraga Medal was bestowed on the Canadian Responsible Fisheries Board and its Secretariat by the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) at a ceremony held in Rome Italy on November 3, 2001. Representatives from the Canadian Responsible Fisheries Board and the Code Secretariat were on hand to accept the award.

The award is in recognition of Canada's outstanding and practical application of the FAO Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries and for its unprecedented grassroots approach to the development of the Canadian Code of Conduct for Responsible Fishing Operations.



Finalists for the year 2000 were: George Feltham, Atlantic; Davidee Evic, Arctic; Robert T. Krisjansen, freshwater; and Les Rombough, Pacific.



## Links With Other Fisheries Organizations

The Canadian Council of Professional Fish Harvesters (CCPFH) share many of the goals of the Responsible Fisheries Board and as such, the two bodies have established common goals that will see them continue to work cooperatively to promote further understanding of responsible fishing among industry participants.

## YEAR THREE (2000-2001)

**B**y year three, more than 70 organizations representing all fleet and gear sectors had ratified the Code. This represented more than 80% of Canadian fishers. Board members continued their commitment to ratification, but also encouraged preparation and movement towards implementation of the Code.

## Board Promotes Code Internationally

"Working Together - Securing the Future", The North Atlantic Responsible Fishing Conference, held in St. John's, Newfoundland, November 7-9, 2000 provided another ideal opportunity to exhibit information about the Canadian Code of Conduct, this time to an international audience. Much interest was expressed in the grassroots development of the Code with many looking to the Canadian experience for direction in dealing with their own fisheries

## Board Addresses First Nations

The Board was also invited to display information on the Code at The First Nations Fishermen's Training Conference held in Dartmouth Nova Scotia from September 26 to the 27, 2000.

Participants to the conference express great interest in the Code and its application to commercial fisheries. As a result, training programs being developed for First Nations fishermen will include a component on the Code and how it can be implemented by First Nations commercial harvesters to ensure conservation of the resource for future generations.

## Trade Marking of Code Logo

The idea of using the official trade logo, a registered trademark, as an eco-label to identify fish products as coming from sources that are managed in a responsible manner has received some attention.

Preliminary investigation indicates that the public is interested in the concept and that professional fishers are eager to respond the market demand for "green" products.

Development of standards for certifying a product as "green" requires a partnership of all stakeholders - environmental groups, governments, and all components of the fishing industry, including fish buying, processing, and retailing. The Canadian Code of Conduct for Responsible Fishing Operations is a first step in the right direction.

## Board Chair Addresses Senate Standing Committee on Fisheries

On March 20, 2001, the Responsible Fisheries Board Chair, addressed the Senate Standing Committee on Fisheries. His message to the Senate Committee was twofold:



St. John's, Newfoundland: site of the second North Atlantic Responsible Fishing Conference.



- a) the Code of Conduct provides a tool to both industry and fisheries managers that assures a consistent and cooperative approach to sustainable fisheries management; and
- b) fisheries managed in accordance with the Code will allow the fish resources and industry to survive and thrive on a sustainable basis.

He requested that the Senate Committee support and endorse the code as an appropriate basis, or framework for cooperative fisheries.

*"The success of our board and the Canadian Code of Conduct for Responsible Fishing Operations is that it includes all commercial fish harvesters, large and small, from all fleets and regions. This grassroots involvement has garnered ratified acceptance by the vast majority of Canada's practising commercial fishermen. However, some continuing support will be needed to continue promoting the implementation of our Code."*

Rick Misner

### DFO Steps Up Staff Information Sessions on the Code

In May 2001, Board members participated in one of the ongoing

DFO workshops designed to provide DFO personnel with information on the Code.

Participants were informed of activities to:

- apply the Code to conservation harvesting plans and fisheries management plans.
- forge working partnerships between industry and government to ensure conduct of at-sea trials aboard commercial vessels aimed at improving the selectivity of gears.
- investigate using the Code as a basis for dispute resolution of fisheries minor infractions and other problems.
- implement the Code in day-to-day operations and to develop tools to monitor compliance with the Code.

### *Presentations*

British Columbia Groundfish Fishery Demonstrates Compliance  
Members of the British Columbia Groundfish Fishery provided a presentation outlining how the Code Principles had been used as a framework for implementing change. A few examples will illustrate:

- Implementation of 100% at-sea observer coverage

*Principles 1, 2, 4 & 9*

- Adoption of Individual Vessel Quotas, placing onus on individual skipper; resulting in improvements in selective fishing and catch utilization.

*Principles 5 and 6*

- Participation with DFO on research and management initiatives such as closures to protect spawning aggregations of Pacific cod and Pacific Ocean perch and implementation of mesh size requirements for Hecate Strait.

*Principle 8*

- Fund activities for management and assessment of the fishery, for example, the collaborative agreement with Pacific Biological Station to employ technical staff to collect information in groundfish research and contracting with non-government scientists to carry out independent research.

*Principle 3*

### Association Verification Protocol

Although application of the Canadian Code is voluntary, fishing enterprises committee to ensuring sustainability are looking for ways of evaluating compliance with the Code. The newly developed Association Verification Protocol provides such a tool.



The Protocol has two components - the harvester self-verification protocol and the association self-verification protocol. Each organizes for verification those items within the Code that are the direct responsibility of the harvester or the Association. A list of guidelines for which compliance is needed (one set for the harvester and another for the association), a measurement indicator, and rating criteria to judge the degree of compliance is also provided.

Used rigorously, this tool is as good as an independent, third-party audit with the added bonus that it demonstrates the spirit of accountability of the stakeholders without the associated costs.

#### Scotia-Fundy Mobile Gear Association

Members of the Scotia-Fundy mobile Gear Association outlined responsible fisheries activities pursued by their membership which directly follow the directives of the Code of Conduct for Responsible Fishing. Areas where significant progress is being made include:

- consultation;
- communications;
- energy optimization;
- marine protected areas; training
- use of selective gears and practices; and
- research.

#### **First Board's Final Meeting - March 2001**

Reporting that some eighty percent of fishers had ratified the Code, the Board Chair suggested that implementation be the focus for 2002. Incorporation of the Code into harvesting plans would be a necessary first step that could be accomplished with the help of fisheries officers and managers.

To safeguard the Code's forward movement, ensuring the momentum gained would continue, the outgoing Board suggested that:

- The Secretariat prepare for a full industry consultation to take place on January 18 and 19, 2002;
- Ratified and non-ratified organizations and their representatives be invited to attend the January consultation;
- The consultation would consider requirements for the future of Code governance;
- The Secretariat prepare a discussion paper to focus discussion at the national meeting addressing issues such as governance; and
- The Chair and some past Board members form an interim board until the January 2002 consultation and

continue the communications aspects of Code ratification and implementation.

#### **NATIONAL MEETING SCHEDULED**

A national meeting is scheduled for January 18 and 19, 2002. At this meeting, members of ratified organizations will be asked to consider and vote on major issues of concern. Major issues to be considered include the following:

- Future governance of Code;
- Future developments and or improvements to the Code; and
- Structure and makeup of governance framework.

A new board to be put in place by those attending the January National meeting will focus its efforts on implementation. Working with fishers organizations and agencies and DFO, the Board will seek full implementation of the Code at every level and for every Canadian Fishery.



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©Minister of Public Works and  
Government Services  
Cat No.:Fs23-347/2001E  
ISBN:0-662-31521-9

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